

Dear Fellow citizens of Milwaukee County:

A referendum question has been placed on Tuesday's ballot by the legislative agents of the Greater Milwaukee Committee, as they strive to complete their long sought efforts to *improve* county government.

The question seemingly regards reducing the pay of those of us who serve as your representative's on the Milwaukee County Board, but in reality serves only to rubber-stamp what have already been accomplished through the Greater Milwaukee Committee's Republican agents in our State Legislature.

Regardless of your judgment in this matter, you should understand that Supervisor's ability to represent your interests, or even to communicate with you, has already been greatly impaired by the state legislature slashing the County Board's current budget by seventy percent.

I would argue that agreeing with the referendum question is directly aimed at lessening your voice in how your tax dollars are spent.

The problem at the heart of this referendum involves having two competing governments representing varying interests.

We have the government that you elect and that I serve on, which in theory represents the *public* interest. And we have the more powerful self-appointed (unelected) government, comprised of groups like the Greater Milwaukee Committee and the Metropolitan Association of Commerce. That government has been created to look after private business interests.

I don't like admitting that the private government is more powerful, but how else can we (the people) account for passing a referendum in 2008 asking the State Government to consent to allow us to impose a full cent sales tax upon ourselves (to save our starving park and transit systems)....and have the state answer us with a wall of silence and inaction?

Could that silence perhaps be explained by the fact that the private government I describe already had plans for your tax dollars?

That a glassed- boxed basket-balled recreational facility in which to entertain their clients took a higher priority among *their* representative's?

Your decision on the referendum question would seem to suggest that you can save tax dollars by voting "yes".

Maybe, fellow citizen, you should check and balance what's really going on here, and consider voting "No".

Gerry Broderick  
County Supervisor, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Milwaukee County Board